

Keyboard Area Requirements for Undergraduate Admission, UW-Madison Mead Witter School of Music

Updated for 2025-26 / hybrid audition format

Please see additional information about the Mead Witter School of Music application process here:
<http://www.music.wisc.edu/undergraduate-admissions/>

We are offering both in person auditions on campus, as well as a virtual audition option for all our audition dates:

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

The audition procedure is as follows:

LIVE (on campus)	VIRTUAL
1. Prepare the required audition repertoire (as detailed on https://music.wisc.edu/keyboard/#toggle-id-1)	1. Prepare the required audition repertoire (as detailed on https://music.wisc.edu/keyboard/#toggle-id-1)
2. Complete an audition on campus on Sat. 11/22/25, Sat. 1/31/26 or Sat. 2/28/26.	3. Submit unlisted YouTube link(s) to video recordings of audition requirements to admissions@music.wisc.edu <i>one week prior to your formal audition date.</i>
	3.) On scheduled audition days, applicants will participate in an interview with the keyboard faculty over Zoom. During this interview, you will be asked to play scale requirements, as well as sight-read an excerpt via Screen Share. (It is recommended that you use a tablet or laptop for this requirement.) Please ask the keyboard faculty if you have any questions. You do not need to include scales with your recorded audition.

Important notes: for virtual auditions:

- 1.) Applicants must wear headphones for the remote live audition/interview to eliminate the need for Zoom's feedback suppression, which results in artificial and processed-sounding audio. The single biggest improvement of how well we can hear you and hear the subtleties of your tone

and dynamics comes not from any expensive microphone, but from you using inexpensive headphones.

- 2.) Before signing on to your virtual audition/interview, please ensure that you have adjusted your audio settings on Zoom. Please note, that it is easier to make adjustments and to produce a better sound for the audition if you use a desktop or laptop computer. The Zoom app on phones and tablets do not have as much functionality as the desktop version.

In the top bar of your screen, use the drop down menu “zoom.us” and then select “preferences.” Once a new window has opened, select audio on the LH side.

First, look towards the bottom half of the page under “Audio Profile.” You should select the option for “original sound for musicians.” Make sure that all 3 options are checked: High-fidelity music mode, Echo cancellation, and Stereo audio.

Second, check your input level under the “microphone” section. Try playing a few notes (especially high, loud ones) and make sure that you are not maxing out the input levels. You want to stay at about 75-80% of the bar.

Once you have entered the zoom meeting, you should see a note at the top LH corner that says “Original Sound for musicians: On.” If it says, Off, please click it!

Trial Lessons: Keyboard faculty are generally available to schedule private trial lessons. Please contact a Keyboard Area faculty member if you are interested.

A meet the faculty session will also occur on the day of the live audition. Parents are invited.

- dbrenner2@wisc.edu
- ctaylor4@wisc.edu
- jgjohnson@wisc.edu